

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00298 211832Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

OFA-01 DLOS-03 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01

AGR-05 /059 W

----- 043356

R 211000Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3339

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EKAB AO

SUBJ: LUANDA PORT SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE WITH SIGNIFICANT

IMPROVEMENT UNLIKELY

REF: LUANDA 0191

1. ON FEB. 28 THE TRANSITUONAL GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED A DECREE OUTLINING STEPS AIMED AT IMPROVING PORT CONGESTION AT LUANDA AND LOBITO. THE ONLY MEASURE CONTAINED IN THE DECREE THAT COULD HAVE MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO TIMELY IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION WAS THE MILITARY MOBILIZATION OF PORT WORKERS.

2. A MILITARY SOURCE TOLD US MARCH 2 THAT "MOBILIZATION" IN THIS CASE MEANT THE USE OF A 200 MAN PORTION OF THE NEW "INTEGRATED

FORCE" UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE PORTUGUESE PORT CAPTAIN TO ENSURE THAT THE STEVEDORES WORK DILIGENTLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FIRST MILITARY CONTINGENT WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ITS EFFORTS ON MARCH 4.

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00298 211832Z

HOWEVER TO DATE (MARCH 20) THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF A MILITARY PRESENCE

IN THE PORT IS APPROXIMATELY FIVE LIBERATION GROUPS SOLDIERS WHO NOW PERFORM THE FORMER CIVILIAN POLICE FUNCTION OF CHECKING OUTGOING VEHICLES FOR CONTRABAND.

3. ON MARCH 4 AND TWICE THEREAFTER THE STEVEDORES' UNION PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE STRONGLY TAKING ISSUE WITH THE POSSIBLE MILITARY MOZILIZATION AND DENIED THAT THE UNION HAD BEEN CONSULTED. (ON FEB. 28 MINISTER OF ECONOMY ALMEIDA ASSURED US THE WORKERS HAD INDEED ACCEPTED THE NECESSITY OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE. EVIDENTLY THEIR UNION HASN'T.)

4. THREE KNITA AND FNLA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (TWO OF WHOM ARE STATE SECRETARIDS) RECENTLY TOLD US ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS THEY FEEL IT IMPOSSIBLE THAT THE PORT SITUATION CAN BE RESOLVED UNDER THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT AS NOW CONSTITUTED. ALL THREE MADE THE SAME POINT, THAT THE INTEGRATED FORCE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO USE VIOLENCE AGAINST MALINGERING WORKERS ANDNOTHING ELSE WILL WORK IN THE SHORT RUN.

5. ON MARCH 18 THE AVERAGE TIME ALREADY SPENT WAITING FOR A BERTH WAS 28 DAYS (12 SHIPS). TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY THE AVERAGE WAIT FOR THE)5 SHIPS THEN STILL ANCHORED OUT WAS 20 DAYS. (NOTE THE FIGURES ARE AVERAGED DAYS ALREADY LOST BY SHIPS STILL WAITING. THE TIME SPENT BY THE VESSEL LONGEST IN THE GUEUE WAS 46 DAYS ON BOTH MARCH 4 AND MARCH 18.) IN OTHER WORDS THE AVERAGE DELAY HAS INCREASED 8 DAYS IN TWO WEEKS. MORE OMINOUS IS THE APPARENT DECLINE IN TH NUMBER OF SHIPPS CALLING AT LUANDA. KILLORAN

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